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whether there is any proposal before the Government for fixing the period for the collection of kists in the Trichinopoly district in four instalments commencing from January to April instead of January, February and March?

A.—The answer is in the negative. The representations were considered before orders were issued in G.O. No. 1162, Revenue, dated 6th June 1932, fixing a kistbandi of 6 annas in January, 6 annas in February and 4 annas in March for all the taluks of the Trichinopoly district with the exception of Karur.

Hereditary right of succession among village officers and village menials in Salem district.

* 226 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) on what definite principles the village officers and village menials in Salem district are not allowed the hereditary right of their posts;

(*b*) in which districts such officers and menials hold this right and the special reasons for the same;

(*c*) whether any representations have been received from the village officers of Salem district in this behalf;

(*d*) if so, from which place such representations were received and in what way they were disposed of; and

(*e*) what objections and special difficulties the Government hold to order for the modification of Board's Standing Order No. 156, to afford equal opportunities and privilege to the village officers, and village menials in Salem and other similar districts, as enjoyed by those in other districts where such posts are governed by statute, and are hereditary?

A.—(*a*) Custom.

(*b*) Village offices other than those specified in Board's Standing Order No. 156 are hereditary. They were hereditary in character before Madras Act III of 1895 was passed.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) ——.

(*e*) The hereditary or non-hereditary character of village offices in any district or part of a district depends on the custom which has prevailed in that area for generations. The Government see no reason to depart from that principle.

Damage to Malabar on account of the cyclone.

* 227 *Q.*—B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was a cyclone on or about 25th May on the West Coast;

(*b*) which are the areas in Malabar which were affected by the same;

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(c) (i) the number of human lives lost,

(ii) the approximate number of cattle that died on account of the cyclone,

(iii) the number of coconut trees, arecanut trees and other trees that fell down on account of the cyclone,

(iv) the number of houses that collapsed on account of the cyclone, and

(v) the approximate total amount of damage sustained;

(d) whether the Government or the Collector of Malabar received petitions from the public seeking for relief in respect of the damage caused by the cyclone and for the remission of assessment;

(e) whether the Government or the Collector of Malabar has taken any steps to relieve the suffering caused by the cyclone and if so, what steps have been taken so far;

(f) whether the Government have considered the question of the necessity to remit the assessment on account of the damage caused by the cyclone; and

(g) whether the Government have received any report from the Collector of Malabar as to the effect of the cyclone and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place it on the table of the House?

A.—*(a) to (c), (e) & (g)* The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 25.

(d) The Government have received no petitions. The Government do not know whether the Collector has received any requests for the remission of land revenue.

(f) The Government have received no representations in the matter.

Deputy Collectors trying suits under the Madras Estates Land Act.

* 228 *Q.*—Mr. G. R. Premayya: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Deputy Collectors (including Revenue Divisional Officers) in the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavari disposing of suits, petitions and proceedings under the Estates Land Act;

(b) the general educational qualifications of such Deputy Collectors and Revenue Divisional Officers in each case;

(c) how many of them are—

(1) graduates in law,
(2) mere graduates in arts,
(3) under-graduates,
(4) Matriculates or school-finals; and

(d) whether they have considered the necessity of posting law graduates to subdivisions with heavy Estates Land Act work?